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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/061,774	02/01/2002	Thomas N. Chalin	WCMI-0028	2211

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EXAMINER

CULBRETH, ERIC D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3616

DATE MAILED: 01/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/061,774

Applicant(s)

CHALIN ET AL.

Examiner

Eric D Culbreth

Art Unit

3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-75 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-13, 39, 56-58 and 69 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 60-62 and 70-75 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 14-23, 31, 40, 41, 44, 45, 47, 48, 50-53, 59 and 63-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 24-30, 32-38, 42, 43, 46, 49, 54 and 55 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2&3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 11-13, 39, 56-58, and 69 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 5.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 7, line 21, "hucks" is not understood.

On page 9, line 1 "voids" should apparently be "void".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 1-10, 14 and 20-21 and 63-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, there is no clear antecedent basis for "its clamped position".

In claim 10 and claim 21 there is no antecedent basis for "the clamp portion extending outwardly from the void in each side wall".

In claim 20 there is no antecedent basis for "the clamp portion".

In claim 68, there is no support for “the sleeve members” nor “the retaining step”.

The claims should be carefully reviewed for other instances of indefiniteness.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-2, 5-9, 14-23, 31, 40-41, 44-45, 47-48, 50-53 and 59 as best understood are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pierce et al (US 2001/0020775 A1).

Pierce et al teach axle 28 clamped in sleeve 46 without press fitting, the sleeve welded in its clamped position as indefinitely recited by weld 58, which also welds the sleeve to the arm 42. The arm has u-shaped portions in its sidewalls for sleeve 46 and plate 36 welded to and extending between the side walls (claims 1-2, 23 and 45). The sleeve is welded at opposite openings 61, 63 by welds 71, 73 to the axle, and the side walls are welded to the sleeve less than 360 degrees about the sleeve. The openings 61, 63, extend less than 360 degrees around the sleeve. The clamp portion of the sleeve 46 is in voids in the side walls of the arm 42 (claims 5-9 and 15). In Figures 20-21 the sleeve extends more than 180 degrees around the axle (claims 14, 22 and 44). The sleeve clamps the axle in a manner producing compressive stress between the sleeve and axle, and as broadly recited fasteners 91, 93 in the clamp portion of the sleeve (Figure

21) produce compressive force when a fastener is tightened (claims 16-17). The clamp portion of sleeve 46 extends in a void at the bottom of the openings in the sidewalls between the openings and a peripheral edge of the side wall (i.e., the bottom of the sleeve extends laterally beyond the peripheral edge of the side wall)(claim 18). In view of the indefinite recitation of claim 21, the reference meets the positive limitation of the claim.

As noted above, the sleeve is welded to the axle at 71, 73 and to the side walls of an arm at 58; clearance is removed without press fitting (column 4, last 9 lines)(claim 31). The features of claims 19-20, 40-41, 47-48 and 50-53 and 59 are addressed above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 60-62 and 70-75 are allowed.
10. Claims 3-4, 10, 63-68 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
11. Claims 24-30, 32-38, 42-43, 46, 49, and 54-55 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Smith et al (U.S. Patent 6,491,314 B2) shows in Figure 39 a sleeve welded about an axle.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric D Culbreth whose telephone number is 703/308-0360. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 9:30-7:00 alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on 703-308-2089. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703/746-3508.

Application/Control Number: 10/061,774

Page 6

Art Unit: 3616

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Eric D Culbreth
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3616

ec

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eric Culbreth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "C".